# NOTE III.

## ON A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF PYTHONIDAE FROM SALAWATTI

BY

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The snake about to be described formed part of the collection which the late Dr. Bernstein brought together in the island of Salawatti. It must be regarded as the representative of a new and interesting genus, which takes its place between the existing genera *Liasis* and *Nardoa.*

It differs from *Nardoa* in having pits not only on the inferior labials but on the rostral and upper labial plates as well, whereas it approaches this genus by the number and disposition of the shields on the head. The tail is rather long, the form of the animal is slender and graceful, the head less broad and at the same time longer and flatter than in most other Pythonidae. This as well as the small, smooth scales might characterize the genus; whereas the peculiar coloration and the metallic hues reflected by the skin will suffice to distinguish the species at first glance.

### *Leiopython* n. gen.

Nostrils lateral in the middle of the nasal plate, followed by a groove which extends backwards and downwards.

Shields on the head extending beyond the eyes; no prefrontals; the number of frenals and preoculars considerably reduced; pits on the rostral, the upper and lower labials; scales short, smooth, rombic.

### *Leiopython gracilis* n. sp.

The number of shields on the top of the head is reduced to eleven: two small internasals, two frontonasals about thrice as large as the foregoing, one frontal, two suboculars, two larger anterior and two smaller posterior parietals with a few smaller scales enclosed between the two latter pairs. The nasal plates are rather elongated; there is only one frenal and one preocular on either side. Three or four postoculars. Rostral plate with two well marked pits; fourteen upper labials, the two foremost of which are distinctly pitted; sixteen lower labials, the seven last but three of which are deeply pitted.

There are 284 ventral shields, 79 subcaudals divided into two along the median line and 49 to 51 longitudinal rows of scales. Scales short and smooth, more or less polygonal towards the tail.

The colour (in spirits) of the back is a rather light violet brown with a well marked iridescence, and a uniform yellowish white on the belly and chin. The top of the head is much darker than the back, although uniform as well. There is a very small white spot behind the eye; the upper and lower labials have their anterior half dark and their posterior half light colored which gives a characteristic expression to the mouth.

The only specimen in the Leyden Museum was found in Salawatti, as stated above; it measures 102.5 cm., of which the head occupies 3.5 cm., the tail 14 cm.